(c) what action has been taken against the official responsible for this sorry state of affairs;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when relief is likely to be granted to the petitioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) Under Article 215 of the Constitution of India, every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. The orders of Allahabad High Court in the WP No. 2757 of 1995 has to be implemented by the Government of Uttaranchal. Central Government has no role to play in the matter. The High Court has the power to, *suo moto*, take the cognizance of its contempt by the State Government.

Permanent Lok Adalats

3349. SHR R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States/UTs have not established permanent Lok Adalats; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to make available speedy, inexpensive and substantial justice to common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Continuous Lok Adalats u/s 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 have been established in almost all the States. However, Permanent Lok Adalats for the Public Utility Services u/s 22B of the Legal Services Authorities (Amended) Act, 2002 have been established only in four States *viz.* Haryana, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and U.T. of Chandigarh. The State Governments of Delhi, Karnataka and Punjab have also cleared the proposal of their State Legal Services Authorities for establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats u/s 22B of Legal Services Authorities for establishment of Permanent Lok Sabha Adalats u/s 22B of Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002. In the remaining States, proposals for such Permanent Lok Adalats are pending with their respective State Government. National Legal Services Authority has also taken up the issue with the State Governments.